(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of central assistance that would be given to the State Government for infrastructure development facilities under this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) M/s Orissa Knit Complex Private Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) formed by a group of entrepreneurs, had submitted a proposal to develop a textiles park in Orissa. Apart from common infrastructure and facilities such as 'Storage and distribution network for supplying water', 'Sewerage Treatment Plant', 'Effluent Treatment Plant', 'Electrical Distribution', etc., the project envisaged 32 factory buildings for 'garmenting', 'knitting', 'Printing', 'Embroidery', 'Precessing' and 'Packaging'. Estimated project cost and investment were Rs.49.55 Crore and Rs.69.25 Crore respectively.

(c) to (e) The project proposal was considered by the Project Approval Committee (PAC) in its meeting held on 16.05.2008 but was not approved as the project did not comply with the criteria of investment *vis a vis* number of entrepreneurs.

Promotion of handloom and handicraft sector in Nagaland

1080. SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the policy being implemented by Government in the State of Nagaland for the development of handloom and handicraft sector;

(b) whether any special policy has been taken up for development of these sectors in North Eastern region in general and Nagaland in particular; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The schemes of Handloom and Handicraft Sector are meant for development of the concerned sector in the country as a whole. The office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms in the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India has been implementing various schemes for Development of Handloom Sector and Welfare of handloom weavers and to enhance their income and socio-econmic status of the weavers by upgrading their skill, providing infrastructural input and marketing support throughout the country including Nagaland During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the following schemes are being implemented for upliftment of Handloom Sector:

(i) Integrated Handloom Development Scheme

(ii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme

(iii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme

(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme

(v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme

The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has been implementing various schemes like Baba Sahib Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY), Marketing Support and Services, Design and Technology Upgradation, Research and Development, Human Resource Development and Welfare Scheme for Handicraft Artisans on all India basis including Nagaland.

(b) and (c) For the Development of Handlooms and Handicrafts in Northern Eastern Region (NER) in general 10% of the total annual Budget outlay is earmarked for implementing above mentioned schemes including the State of Nagaland.

Textile and clothing sector overlooked in 2008-09 budget

1081. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that textile and clothing sector have been overlooked in the 2008-09 budget;

(b) whether any provision would be made in 2008-09 budget for crises-ridden textile and clothing sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir. The budget (plan) outlay, of the Ministry of Textiles during 2008-09, has been enhanced to Rs. 2500.00 crore from Rs. 2243.00 crore during 2007-08, registering an increase of 11.00 per cent.

(b) to (d) The total budget (plan) allocation for the Ministry of Textiles has been enhanced to Rs. 2880.00 crore at Revised Estimate (RE) stage. The RE for the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme stands at Rs. 1644.89 crore, as against the Budget Estimate (BE) of Rs. 1140.00 crore.

Higher price of cotton *vis-a-vis* Pakistan

†1082. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of cotton in India is higher than that of Pakistan's and Indian cotton mills are fulfilling their requirement by purchasing cotton from abroad;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) how it has affected purchase of cotton in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The prices of Indian cotton are higher than Pakistan cotton. Date-wise

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.